

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John Olver joined Congressman Peter Welch (VT) and 78 other Members of the House of Representatives to send the following letter to BP CEO Tony Hayward regarding the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico:

Tony Hayward

Chief Executive Officer, BP

*1 St James's Square
London
SW1Y 4PD*

Dear Mr. Hayward,

As BP presides over one of the greatest environmental and economic catastrophes of our time, we find it troubling that your company plans to divert financial resources to shareholder dividends and slick marketing campaigns.

Even as oil threatens to flow into the Gulf of Mexico for months to come, press reports indicate that you hope to distribute \$10 billion in dividends to shareholders before the full cost of this devastating oil spill is known. At the same time, your company has launched an aggressive public relations campaign, with full page ads in major newspapers and a reported \$50 million television blitz.

We urge you to halt your planned dividend payout and cancel your advertising campaign until you have done the hard work of capping the well, cleaning up the Gulf Coast and making whole those whose very livelihoods are threatened by this catastrophe. Not a moment before then should you return to business as usual.

Sincerely,

Peter Welch, Member of Congress

Ed Markey, Member of Congress

Lois Capps, Member of Congress

John J. Hall, Member of Congress

Steven R. Rothman, Member of Congress

James P. McGovern, Member of Congress

Tim Bishop, Member of Congress

Maurice D. Hinchey, Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva, Member of Congress

Charlie Melancon, Member of Congress

Jim Langevin, Member of Congress

Betty Sutton, Member of Congress

Paul Tonko, Member of Congress

Pete Stark, Member of Congress

Bill Delahunt, Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen, Member of Congress

Doris Matsui, Member of Congress

Janice Schakowsky, Member of Congress

John A. Yarmouth, Member of Congress

Jared Polis, Member of Congress

Chet Edwards, Member of Congress

Mazie K. Hirono, Member of Congress

John W. Olver, Member of Congress

Steve Israel, Member of Congress

Rush Holt, Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan, Member of Congress

Dennis Cardoza, Member of Congress

Keith Ellison, Member of Congress

Earl Pomeroy, Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud, Member of Congress

Steve Cohen, Member of Congress

Bob Filner, Member of Congress

Ron Kind, Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin, Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro, Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján, Member of Congress

Bill Owens, Member of Congress

Leonard Boswell, Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo, Member of Congress

Mike Honda, Member of Congress

George Miller, Member of Congress

Ed Pastor, Member of Congress

Deborah L. Halvorson, Member of Congress

Jim McDermott, Member of Congress

Phil Hare, Member of Congress

Charles A. Wilson, Member of Congress